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Alan J. Kasper  
Sughrue, Mion, Zinn,  
MacPeak & Seas, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-3213

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of  
Lester F. Ludwig  
Application No. 09/471,577  
Filed: December 23, 1999  
Attorney Docket No. VISN-007/03U

**ON PETITION**

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed March 12, 2002, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed January 9, 2001, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on April 10, 2001.

37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. If the statement contained in the instant petition varies from the language required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3), it will be interpreted as the required statement. Petitioner must notify the Office if this is **not** a correct interpretation of the statement contained in the instant petition.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Accordingly, since the \$920 extension of time submitted with the petition on March 12, 2002 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account no. 19-4880.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Retta Williams at (703) 306-5594 or in my absence, Latrice Bond at (703) 308-6911.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center 2600, Art Unit 2643 for further processing.

*Retta Williams*

Retta Williams  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
For Patent Examination Policy

*Latrice Bond*

Latrice Bond  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
For Patent Examination Policy